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ABSTRACT

The goal of this guidebook is to help writers activate their brains to stir up more and better ideas and details. The guide's thesis is that "good writing combines fresh ideas energized by vivid details." Chapters 1, 2, and 3 are devoted to providing thinking options for writers. Chapters 4 and 5 discuss options for paragraphing and organization. Chapter 6 discusses options for introductions, drafting, and overcoming writer's blocks. Chapter 7 and 8 deal with revision, including advice for peer review and conferences. Chapters 9-14 cover the most widely taught types of essays: descriptive, narrative, informative, persuasive, literary, and researched. Chapter 15 consists of a collection of student essays that range from good to excellent on a variety of writing tasks. Chapter 16 is a brief handbook that focuses on a few essential rules--the premise is that "less is learnable, more is ignorable." The guide's third edition has been updated for the computer age. It contains full treatment of drafting and revising with word processors, using the Internet and computerized indexes for research, and evaluating and documenting electronic sources. An appendix contains abbreviated comments on student papers. (NKA)

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